Central schemes by the Banks operating in State of Uttaranchal during the last two years;

(b) whether the targets fixed in this regard have been achieved by these banks; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Ministry to get the target achieved by these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exemption of Hindu Temples from Income Tax

3468. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any proposal from the State Government Karnataka to amend Section 10(23BRA) of the Income Tax to exempt Hindu temples from Income Tax;

(b) if so, the status of the same; and

(c) the reasons for the long pendency of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to amend section 10(23BBA) of the Income-tax so as to exempt Hindu temples falling under the purview of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997 has been received. The same is under consideration.

(c) The proposal to amend section 10(23BBA) involves examination of several factual and legal issues. A report was called for from field formation which is being examined.

Privatisation of Public Sector Banks

3469. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestion for privatization of Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and